

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 5 illustrates a method for activating a service channel in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention. In this example, a trigger 312 can be sent to a host 301 to contact a particular network service on a port (502). The trigger is received, in this example, by the stealth listener 303 (504). For example, the trigger can be received at a port on the host, which is monitored by stealth listener 303 via operating system 302. After receiving the trigger, a determination is made as to whether the trigger is properly authenticated (506). In this example, stealth listener 303 can be implemented in firewall 304 (Figure 3) or another security application protecting host 202. In one embodiment, stealth listener 303 can serve as a first line of defense, intercepting packets before they reach host 301. This example provides an implementation that can enable numerous hosts to be protected by a single security application, such as stealth listener 303, instead of requiring installation on every host in an organization. --